

From: Jon Niola
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 6:26am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Attorney General Ashcroft et al,

Upon reviewing the propose Microsoft dettlement, I feel inclined to inform you that I as a citizen of the United States do not feel it does enough to prevent future anti-competitive behavior.

While I believe competition in the consumer and business software market is vital to our country, I also believe it would be disastrous if we did not have the compatability within the marketplace that the large installed base of Windows-powered computers provides.

I think a just solution would be to require Microsoft corporation to license their source code to competitors so that other companies may produce compatable, yet competitive versions of the ubiquitous operating system.

The results this would yield are two fold. First off, Microsoft would not be able to bury any hidden functionality in their operating system that makes their applications perform better or have a more robust feature set. Secondly, this will not cause the financial harm that a segmented, incompatable software marketplace would cause.

Though Microsoft has done signifigant harm to other companies in their industry, sanctions have to be cautiously weighed to prevent futher harm to competitors, but at the same time prevent harm to the ancillary, non-affiliated companies that depend on Microsoft status quo. There are many software vendors out there that build their software only for the Windows platform because of costs. Why build for other operating systems for the same costs when you can build for a ubiquitous platform like Windows?

Other competitive companies could build Windows compatible software to run on other operating systems if they were legally allowed to license the Windows source code to do so.

Thank you,

--Jonathan Paul Niola